IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 21 (cancelled).

Claim 22. (Original) S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid D-arginine salt having m.p. 241-243°C, and $[\propto]^{25}_{D}$ = -174.4° (c = 1, methanol).

Claim 23. (Original) R-(+)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid L-arginine salt.

Claim 24. (Original) R-(+)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid D-arginine salt having m.p. (DSC) 232.0° C, and $[\propto]^{25}_{D}$ = +171.4° (c = 1, methanol).

Claim 25. (Original) R-(+)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo- 1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid DL-arginine salt.

Claim 26. (Original) A compound selected from RS-(±)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)- 5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid DL-arginine salt, RS-(+)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)- -5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid L-arginine salt or RS-(±)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid D-arginine salt.

Claims 27 - 32 (cancelled)

Claim 33. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing optical purity of S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid L-arginine salt comprising, the steps of:

(a) suspending a partially optically impure mixture of 9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H, 5H-benzo[i,j] quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid ~~comprising 70% S-(-) isomer and 30% R-(+) isomer to 97% S-(-) isomer and 3% R-(+)-isomer~~ in water and organic solvent selected from acetone or acetonitrile to form a suspension,

(b) adding an equimolar quantity of L-arginine to the suspension and heating the suspension to a temperature between about [[at]] 40 to 70°C to obtain a clear solution, [and]

(c) adding 2 to 3 times more of the organic solvent added in step (a) ~~and stirring at 0° to 45°C for 1 hr to 5 hr to effect the crystallization and isolating the product by filtration and drying~~,

(d) cooling the solution to 0 to 45°C, for 1 hr to 5 hr, to effect the crystallization;

(e) isolating the crystalline form of S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl -1-oxo-1H,5 H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid L-arginine salt at below 35°C by filtration, and

(f) purifying and drying the crystalline form of S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine -2-carboxylic acid L-arginine salt.

Claims 34 - 46 (cancelled)

Claim 47. (New) The process according to claim 33, wherein the optically impure

mixture of 9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4- hydroxypiperidin-1- yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H, 5H-benzo [i, j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid comprises S-(-) to R-(+)-isomer of 9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1- yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H, 5H-benzo[i, j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid in a ratio of from 70:30 to 97:3.

Claim 48. (New) The process according to claim 33, wherein the optically impure mixture of 9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i, j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid comprises S-(-) to R-(+)-isomer of 9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1- yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H, 5H-benzo[i, j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid in a ratio of from 85:15 to 97:3.